Granting of Ex-Gratia Pension to CPT Employees

2496. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Calcutta Port Trust has granted Ex-gratia Pension to the Contributory Provident Fund (CPF) beneficiaries who retired between the period 18-11-1960 to 31.12.1985;

(b) if so, the number of applications received by the CPT Authorities from the retired employees in this regard so far; and

(c) the time limit by which the First Payment of Ex-gratia Pension will be given to the eligible employees under the CPF Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes Sir, the payment of Ex-gratia pension to CPF beneficiaries in CPT is under process.

(b) So far 267 nos. of applications have been received in the Pension Section of CPT for granting of Ex-gratia Pension to CPF beneficiares.

(c) Payment orders have already been issued to 7 applicants. In 60 cases payment orders will be issued shortly. However, arrear payment will be released in accordance with the availability of fund as the Port is passing through an acute financial stringency.

Navigability of NWS 1, 2 and 3

2497. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to make national waterways Nos. 1, 2 and 3 navigable and commercially viable;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether these waterways have the adequate depth to facilitate smooth navigation and if not, the steps taken in this regard; and

(d) whether adequate infrastructure like ports for loading and unloading of goods have been built up and if not, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Provision of infrastructural facilities, such as, navigational channel with assured depth, loading and unloading facilities at important locations, and

navigational aids like channel marking, river notice etc., are planned and provided by IWAI in a phased manner on the three National Waterways so as to make them navigable and commercially viable.

(c) The details of depth to facilitiate smooth navigation, waterway-wise, are as follows:—

National Waterway (NW-1) : The depth of 2 m is maintained in Haldia-Farakka (560 km.) stretch for operation round the year. It is available for 330 days in a year in Farakka-Patna (420km.) stretch which is sufficient for navigation by vessels upto 1.8 m draft. Work is in progress on Patna-Allahabad stretch to provide least available depth for operating of vessles with 1.8 draft for 330 days in a year.

National Waterway-2 (NW-2): The depth of 2 m is maintained between Dhubri and Pandu (260 km.) for round the year operation. It is available for 330 days in a year between Pandu & Neamati (371 km). The depth of 1.5 m is maintained between Neamati and Sadiya for about 270 days in a year.

National Waterway-3 (NW-3): The depth of 2 m is maintained in Champakara and Udyogmandal Canals (37km.) and Kochin-Allapuzha stretch (60 km.). Capital dredging to maintain the depth of 2 m in Allapuzha-Kollam (108 km.) stretch is also in progress.

Further river conservancy measures such as bandalling and dredging are carried out on year to year basis on NW 1 and 2 to increase the depth at Shoals during Lean water level season. Action is also in hand to procure additional hardware to increase dredging capacity of IWAI.

(d) Yes Sir, the terminals for loading/unloading exist at Haldia, Calcutta, Pakur, Farakka, Karagola, Bhagalpur, Munger, Patna, and Allahabad on NW 1 and at Jogighopa and Pandu at NW 2. Action has already been initiated to upgrade the facilties at these terminals and to set up terminals at few other places, subject to availability of funds.

On NW 3 the terminals are owned and operated by the users at Kochi, Edapallikota. Udyogmandal and Ambalamugal. Locations have already been selected for construction of 11 terminals. The land has so far been made available by the State Government through acquisition, at 7 locations where the construction work has also commenced. The State Government has since commenced the process of land acquisition at the remaining sites.